

REMARKS

Claims 1-7, 9-15 and 17-23 are currently pending in the present patent application. Claims 1-7, 9-15 and 17-23 are pending. Claims 4, 6, 7, 12, 14, 15, 20, 22, and 23 are amended herein. No new matter has been added. Applicants respectfully request further examination and reconsideration in view of the remarks set forth below.

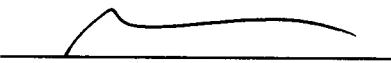
## CONCLUSION

In light of the above remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejected claims. Based on the remarks presented above, Applicants respectfully assert that Claims 1-7, 9-15 and 17-23 overcome the rejections of record and, therefore, Applicants respectfully solicit allowance of these Claims.

The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative if the Examiner believes such action would expedite resolution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,  
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Dated: 10/12/2007

  
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